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Webb's Words



A rousing Boxing Day welcome to all and sundry and a warm one especially to all who have travelled down from Lancashire - it's a long haul and we think unfair for a festive occasion. Both clubs could have had games with nearer neighbours but these days it seems these are frowned upon by the authorities, hence the long trips at difficult times.

The Christmas holidays for printers get ever longer, so I'm writing these notes on December 12th believe it or not - so I can't be topical in any way. Equally, I can't forecast what will have happened in respect of the games against Grimsby & Chester. However, whatever happened in those, we've served notice on the Division that we are to be reckoned with. I've heard that some people have been waiting for us to blow-up - they've waited since August, so no doubt they'll have a say sometime during the season. For our-

selves, we'll carry on trying to concentrate solely on the match ahead of us.

Today that means Phil Neal and Bolton are our sole concern and rightly so as well. The Wanderers reached the top slots last year and they've rampaged up the table again this time. It's going to be a real Boxing Day cracker and one we hope you'll savour whatever the outcome.

Christmas, they point out hasn't been the happiest times at Roots Hall in recent years and last year my old mate Terry Cooper and Exeter, joined Colchester in spoiling our festivities. No disrespect to Phil Neal and his lads but I hope this time we can round off Christmas with a smile.

Whatever the result, let's hope Football and its fans are the winners in every sense. Greetings once more, be lucky.

Up the Blues

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those held by Southend United F.C.



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Answer all the questions below. Send your answers on a post-card to Lorus/Blues Challenge, S.U.F.C., Roots Hall, Southend. 1st all correct answer drawn weekly wins a £25 watch.

- 1) Which 4 goalkeepers have been named writers Footballer of the Year?
- 2) Which player won the award whilst playing with 2 different clubs?
- 3) Apart from the answer to the previous question, which 4 players have won the award twice?
- 4) Which foreign born player won it in 1981?
- 5) Which 2 players shared the award in 1969 (one the captain of the F.A. Cup Winners in 1969, the other the captain of the 2nd Division Champions). This is the only time the award has been shared
- 6) Which 8 Liverpool players have won the award (none between 1948 and 1973)?
- 7) Which 3 players have won the award whilst with Manchester United?
- 8) Which player won the award whilst with a Division 2 club during the 1970's?
- 9) Which 3 players have won the award whilst with Leeds?
- 10) Which players whose surname begins with M won the award in (a) 1971 (b) 1964 (c) 1950?
- 11) Which Scottish defender won the award in 1978?
- 12) Who in 1986 was voted Footballer of the Year for the only time in his only season with a particular club?
- 13) Which famous 1 club men were voted Footballer of the Year whilst with (a) Bolton (b) Wolves?
- 14) Which players then with Spurs won the award in (a) 1982 (b) 1987?
- 15) With which clubs were the following when voted Footballer of the Year (a) Don Revie (b) Harry Johnston (c) Jimmy Adamson (d) Bill Slater (e) Syd Owen?

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A report recently came to light of a game played by 'electric light' at Walsall's old Chuckery ground in 1888. West Bromwich Albion were the visitors as part of a local festival and over 7,000 spectators were present. Ten years earlier a game between two teams chosen by the Sheffield Association had taken place at Bramall Lane. Yet it was not until 1955 that the first game of an official nature between two League clubs was played. This was the Carlisle v Darlington F.A. Cup replay in 1955. In fact the F.A. had officially banned floodlighting in 1930 for any games under their jurisdiction.

Of course there is floodlighting and floodlighting and the early experiments in this direction were obviously extremely primitive by present-day standards. They may well have been little more than electric light bulbs attached to the end of poles. Certainly they afforded limited light and reports on the Walsall v West Brom game speak of the ball disappearing into the darkness and then taking recipients by surprise when it came down again. Frequent cries of 'Where's the ball?' are also reported and the game sounds like something of a farce with some doubt even about how any goals were actually scored. The fact that goal nets were then still a thing of the future would certainly not help either.

Floodlights were, however, fascinating right from the start people flocked to them and there were in fact around 20,000 at the Sheffield game, more than four times the attendance at the F.A. Cup Final of that year. This popularity was evident again some 75 years later when, at a time when floodlights were still not permitted

for League and F.A. Cup games Wolves played their memorable European friendlies against Spartak and Honved before packed Moineux crowds.

It became clear then that floodlight football had its own special atmosphere and that this more than made amends for the chill in the air of November evenings. That fascination has never completely gone and, quite apart from the evening games, many a dull Saturday afternoon encounter has come to life when the floodlights have been switched on in the second half. With two English clubs happily back in Europe this season something of the tingle of those early floodlights friendlies of the fifties has been recaptured with both players and fans lifted by them.

It seems a long time now since November brought a change in kick off times on Saturdays to accommodate the shorter days. Games would start at 2.30 and then during December at 2.15 with a 2 o'clock start for F.A. Cup replays when there was a possibility of extra time. Amazingly attendances didn't suffer too much even though many fans worked on Saturday mornings in those days. Those games too had their own atmosphere and some of us can still recall the experience of going to a 2.15 kick-off straight from work and getting home by half past four. There were few traffic problems in those days either for most of us either cycled or went by bus. Travelling home from games in the dark in heavy traffic is not the most pleasant of experiences, but we are still some way off being able to have the thrills of floodlight football and daylight to travel home in.



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FOCUS ON "THE TROTTERS"

by Kevin O'Donnell

Our Opponents

The club was originally called Christchurch F.C. on its formation in 1874 but changed to the present name three years later, "Wanderers" being used as they had no settled home. Before moving to their present ground at Burden Park in 1895 they had also used the Park Recreation Ground, Cockle's Field and Pike's Lane.

Apart from a problem with the pitch at Pike's Lane one of the main drawbacks to the club was that the ground was situated at the bottom of a hill which afforded a free view to anyone who decided to stand at the top! Blues are of course familiar with this problem to a degree following the development of the Priory Court flats but not to the extent today's visitors encountered back in 1884 when apparently some 5,000 people watched a cup replay against Notts County from the top of the hill.

Burden Park's official record attendance was achieved in another cup tie some years later when 69,912 turned up against Manchester City in 1933. On a sadder note an estimated 85,000 gained entry, many illegally, to the ground for a cup match against Stoke City in 1946. The crush was worst in the Railway Enclosure resulting in the deaths of 33 people in circumstances not too remotely removed from the more recent Hillsborough disaster. Nowadays the capacity at Burden Park has been much reduced and now stands at 25,000.

In 1888 the Trotters became founder members of the Football League although their first ever League match was not a success as they crashed 3-6 at home to Derby County. Before the First World War the club led a somewhat up and down existence as they were relegated and promoted on no fewer than nine occasions.

From 1911 a period of stability was achieved as they remained in Division One for 22 years until relegated once again in 1932-33. Only 2 years later Bolton returned to Division One where they stayed for a further 31 years until relegated in 1963-64. Seven years after that further relegation was suffered, to Division Three for the first time ever.

The club's first stay in Division Three lasted only 2 years as they regained Second Division status in 1972-73 as champions and after several years of near misses returned to the top flight in 1977-78 as Second Division champions. However, 2 years later a slide back down the football League commenced and in 1987-88 the club found itself in Division Four for the first time in almost 100 years of League football.

The Trotters are now trying to climb upwards again. They were promoted from Division Four at the first attempt and last season finished 6th in Division Three to reach the play-offs where they lost 1-3 on aggregate to Notts County who went on to secure promotion. They might have done better had they not suffered a run of 7 defeats in 12 League matches during March and April. Top scorer last season was Tony Philliskirk, a former

colleague of Richard Cadette at Sheffield United in the pre-Deane and Agana days, with 24 goals.

Bolton have never won the First Division championship although they have finished 3rd on 3 occasions the last back in 1924-25. They have been Second Division champions twice and runners up a further 4 times and Division Three champions once.

The club has also achieved great success in the F.A. Cup which they have won 4 times and been runners up 3 times including the much vaunted 1953 "Matthews Cup Final" when they lost 3-4 to Blackpool, who ironically knocked them out of last season's competition in the First Round.

There have been two more recent trips to Wembley for the Trotters in 1985-86 when they lost to Bristol City in the Final of the Freight Rover Trophy and in 1988-89 when they reached the same stage of the competition then called the Sherpa Van Trophy. On that occasion their opponents were Torquay United whom they beat 4-1 before a crowd of 46,513.

Blues have played only six previous League matches against Bolton, most of them tense close affairs resulting in only nine goals between both clubs. The last meeting was at Burden Park on March 18th 1989 when Blues battled their way to a vital point in a 0-0 draw in front of only 3,505 fans. Earlier that season Blues had faced the Trotters in their opening League fixture. Before a crowd of 4,075 goals in each half by Danny O'Shea and David Crown gave Blues a winning start to the 1988-89 season which eventually ended with relegation to Division Four.

The clubs first met in the 1972-73 season when both matches ended all square at 1-1. The point gained at Burden Park was Blues first away point that season as they struggled to regain their feet back in Division Three after a six year absence.

The other League meetings were in 1983-84 when Bolton won 1-0 at Roots Hall and 2-0 at Burden Park in another season which ended with relegation to Division Four for Blues. The clubs have also met in the League Cup once in 1979-80 when Blues beat their then First Division opponents 2-1 over two legs.

After a slow start to the present campaign Bolton have made steady progress and are once again challenging for a place in Division Two. Phil Neal, the former Liverpool and England full back, has been manager of the club since 1985. He has kept a largely unchanged squad from last season with only Gareth Gray leaving in the close season and David Burke joining at the same stage.

Since the start of the season Mark Seagraves has arrived from Manchester City for a reported £100,000 fee and Sammy Lee has been signed on a free transfer from Southampton to bolster what the club hopes will be another promotion year.

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MEET THE MANAGER

- Phil Neal -

Phil Neal was the epitomy of the image of the Professional Footballer during his star-studded career with England and Liverpool. Following that Phil joined the Trotters to test the temperature of the water as a Manager. Supported by the experienced Mick Brown, he has set the ship on a steady course since 1985 and has made them once more a force to be reckoned with and regarded by many good judges as a firm promotion tip this time round.

The Players

David Felgate - Goal-keeper.

Born: Blaenau Ffestiniog. Commenced his career with the Wanderers but failed to make a League appearance before being sold to Lincoln City for £25,000. Whilst at Sincil Bank he won his only Welsh International cap and in February 1987 returned to Bolton from Grimsby Town for £15,000.

Phil Brown - Full back. Born South Shields. Club captain who has been everpresent in the side for the past two seasons since his move from Halifax Town.

Paul Hughes - Full Back. Born Manchester. Came through the Wanderers Youth Policy to make his League debut



BOLTON WANDERERS



Back Row: (Left to Right) Paul Hughes, Barry Cowdrill, Mark Came, Mark Winstanley, Paul Cornstive, Alan Stubbs, Nicky Spooner, Robbie Savage.

Middle Row: (Left to Right) Phil Neal (Manager), Julian Darby, Gary Henshaw, Dean Crombie, Dave Felgate, Kevin Rose, Mike Jeffrey, Gary Brown, Neil Fisher, Mick Brown (Coach).

Front Row: (Left to Right) Ewan Simpson (Physio), David Reeves, Phil Brown, Tony Philliskirk, Stuart Storer, Steve Thompson, David Burke, Darren Oliver, Scott Green, Steve Carroll (Youth Team Coach).

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The Players cont... The Players cont....

during the Fourth Division promotion season 1987/88.

Barry Cowdrill - Full Back/Midfield. Born Birmingham. Began with West Bromwich Albion who secured his services from Sutton Coldfield Town. Moved to Burnden two seasons ago and was last seasons Player Of The Year.

David Burke - Full Back. born Winsford. In his second spell with Bolton. A former England youth international.

Dean Crombie - Defender. Born Lincoln. Commenced his career with his home town club. In 1978 moved to Grimsby Town and came to Burnden in 1987.

Mark Winstanley - Defender. Born St. Helens. Became a regular in the side in 1988. His consistent performances have attracted the attention of some First Division clubs.

Mark Came - Defender. Born Exeter. Joined the Wanderers in 1984.

Julian Darby - Midfield. Born Bolton. A product of the clubs youth policy. Made his debut in 1986.

Steve Thompson - Midfield. Born Oldham. The clubs longest serving professional having made

his debut in November 1982.

Stuart Storer - Midfield/Forward. Born Harborough. Joined Bolton in January 1988. Began his career with Mansfield Town before moving to Birmingham City and Goodison Park.

Gary Henshaw - Midfield. Born Leeds. Moved to Burnden from Grimsby Town in July 1987. Has spent some time out on loan with Rochdale.

Robbie Savage - Midfield. Born Liverpool. Missed most of last season through injury. Joined Bolton in September 1987.

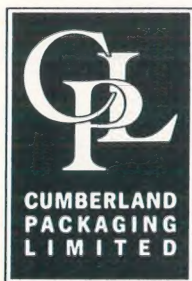
Paul Comstive - Midfield. Born Southport. Joined the Wanderers in 1989 from Burnley.

Scott Green - Midfield. Born Walsall. A £50,000 fee secured the 20 year old from Derby County last March.

David Reeves - Forward. Born Birkenhead. Moved from Sheffield for a fee of £80,000 last summer.

Tony Philliskirk - Forward. Born Sunderland. Last seasons leading goalscorer after his move from Preston North End.

Mike Jeffrey - Forward. Born Liverpool. Made is debut aged 17 in March 1989.



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BOARDROOM BLUES



THE S. W. EXPERIMENT

News of the Board decision to experiment with using the South West Terrace was received too late for our Grimsby magazine, the first game for its use.

Basically, the club is responding positively to recent suggestions to provide a concession price area for non-members who wish to stand.

By entering at Turnstile 25 or 26 according to status at the Shakespeare Drive, West side of the ground non-members may now obtain admission at the usual £5.50 for Adult and £3.00 for an OAP or Juvenile. The fence at the South Bank removed the incentives for youngsters to encroach on the pitch as they had at the North End, and the club hopes it will be an initiative well received.

The cost to the club is relatively high in terms of extra toilets catering, stewards and potentially Police but if the Festive Season, 3 game experiment proves a success then it may well be extended.

There are but two turnstiles available because of segregation and entry is liable consequently to be slower than at other parts of the ground. However, fans knowing that, can arrive earlier if they wish to avoid missing a kick off.

Obviously the weather will have a say also, as the facility is open to the elements but it does as requested, afford a concession element to non-members.

Blues are still firmly committed to the Membership Scheme - not to be confused with any so called I.D. Card - and hope to see that extended beyond the present 4,000 or so. Even so, it is confidently expected that Members themselves will be amongst those to make use of the facility and for many it will be nostalgic to return to an area they may have used to watch the Blues years ago.

IT'S ALL IN THE PAST

PAST MATCHES BETWEEN BLUES AND BOLTON

SEASON	DIVISION	HOME	AWAY
--------	----------	------	------

1972-73	3	1-1	1-1
---------	---	-----	-----

1983-84	3	0-1	0-2
---------	---	-----	-----

1988-89	3	2-0	0-0
---------	---	-----	-----

Football League Cup

1979-80 Second Round

First Leg Bolton 1 Blues 2

Second Leg Blues 0 Bolton 0

(Blues won 2-1 on aggregate)

SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	3	1	1	1	3	2
AWAY	3	0	2	2	1	3
TOTAL	6	1	3	2	4	5



Catering For All Fans



Peter Coates, Chairman of Stoke City is also Chairman of Lindley Catering, the U.K.'s largest supplier of catering services to Football Grounds. He is ideally placed to look at the problems of feeding and quenching the thirst of supporters to defend the record of clubs and caterers. We begin today a two-part article which we know fans will find of interest and worthy of discussion.

There was a time, up until about twenty five years ago, when football stadium catering in the UK can be said to have hardly existed. Where there was any at all, it didn't run much beyond beef drinks or stewed tea served from giant urns. In many people's minds the image of football catering is irrevocably rooted in this era. However, it is my contention that, rather like British Rail sandwiches, in most in-

stances the reality is now far better than the myth. That is not to say that we have achieved perfection but I would argue that responsible caterers and clubs have raised standards as far as possible given the real nature of the market and the commercial and operational constraints under which these catering facilities are run.

Without a doubt the biggest advances have been seen at the top end of the market where there has been nothing short of a revolution. Quality restaurant facilities are now commonly found at most larger clubs. These provide a very useful facility for those supporters who use them as well as generating revenue for the clubs both from matchday catering and from private hire for use as dining or conference venues on weekdays. The proliferation of executive boxes and their attendant catering has also provided a stimulus towards higher standards which is to be wholeheartedly welcome.

The Taylor Report recognises these improvements at the top end of the market but quite correctly points out that, worthy as they are, they do not directly affect the catering provisions for the vast majority of spectators who neither sit in executive boxes nor eat in the clubs restaurants. It is the provision of catering services to the majority of supporters who do use the boxes and restaurants that attract criticism and comment and Lord Justice Taylor quite rightly points out that in many instances the same operators are responsible for all the catering inside the ground.

So, why is there a double standard? In commercial terms, there is something of a paradox. On one hand we have a small premium market which is being well catered for. On the other hand there is an enormous mass market which, according to critics like Lord Justice Taylor, is being badly served by clubs and caterers alike. At first glance it seems to

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(continued on page 16)



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IMPORTANT MATCHES

Linesman - European Cup 1/4 Final Oct. 1981
 Reserve Referee - Full Members Cup Final April 1986
 Linesman - Youth International May 1986
 Reserve Referee - Fourth Division Play Off Final May 1990
 Referee - Youth International May 1990

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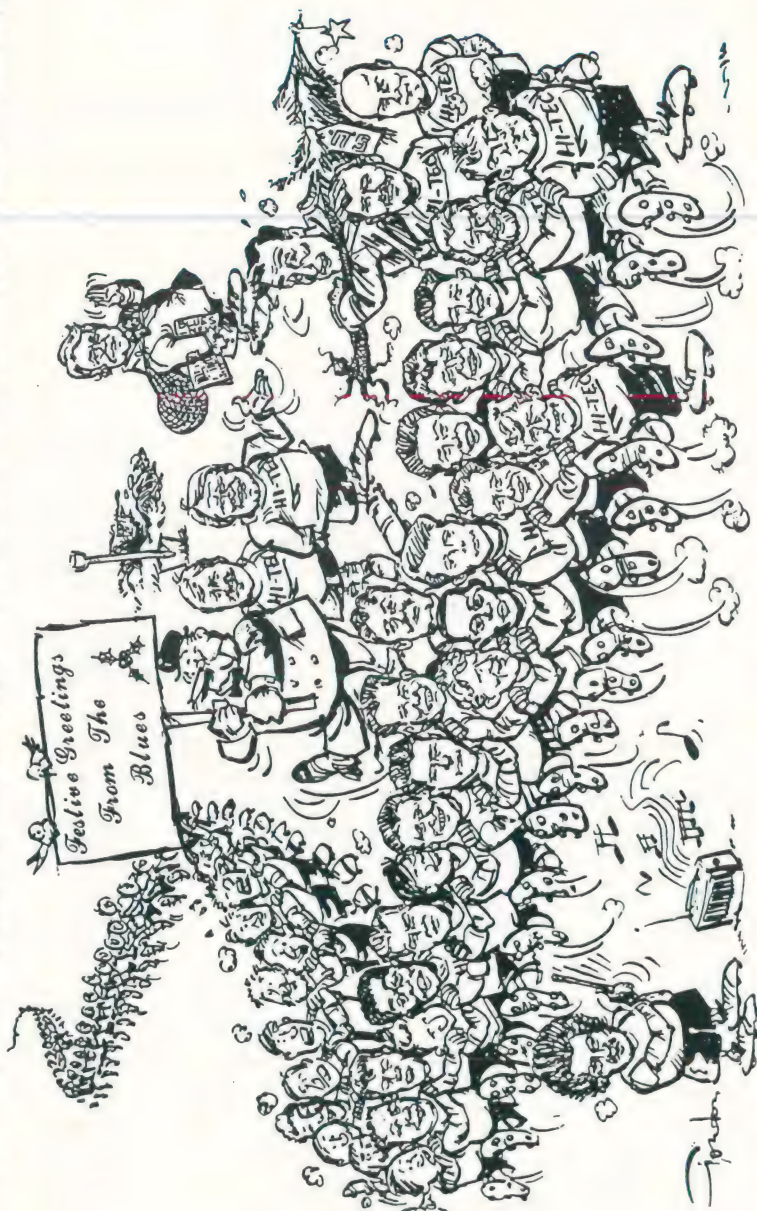
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GREAVSIE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Blues fan Jim recently boosted Blues and the lower Divisions in his nationally syndicate column.

Some of the most enjoyable and entertaining football I have witnessed this season has been down in the Third Division far away from the television eye. I take a close interest in the fortunes of Southend United, a club with a big heart to match the size of their ambitions.

In their 84 year existence they have never been above Third Division status, and now everybody connected with the club is holding their breath because the distinct possibility of promotion is beginning to loom as large as the seaside town's famous pier.

Southend's match this Saturday against Grimsby Town at Roots Hall could prove one of the most vital in the club's history. Grimsby are Southend's nearest challengers at the top of the Third Division.

A win for United would widen their lead to seven points and then the promised land of the Second Division would begin to look within shooting range.

I will be kicked by the club's enthusiastic chairman, Vic Jobson, and their wise, unflappable manager, Dave Webb, for even breathing the word promotion. They are only too aware that the club has broken too many promises in the past for anything to be taken for granted, and they are studiously ensuring that the players take each game as it comes.

But if they can clear the Grimsby barrier even they will have to start admitting that promotion is a distinct possibility. Then, perhaps, the local council will start to give serious consideration to Southend's desire to build a new stadium.

It is no secret that Basildon - a few miles down the road - would welcome United with open arms, but Vic Jobson would prefer to keep the club in Southend.

Their present home at Roots Hall would not be an ideal setting for Second Division football and the larger crowds it would attract. I have seen the plans for a new, all-purpose Southend stadium that would be good news for the club and for the local community.

But the people who matter at council level seem to be deaf and blind - and strictly Third Division in their thinking. This sort of head-in-



the-sand approach is holding back the ambitions of several clubs despite the post-Hillsborough mood for change and modernisation.

Weather permitting, try to search out a game in the Third or Fourth Division this weekend. I think you will be surprised by the standard and delighted with the entertainment. A day trip to Southend, for instance, should be rewarded with a cracker of a match.

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Cont from page 10

represent a marvellous opportunity lost for all and Lord Justice Taylor clearly believes this to be the case when he says: "... there is no reason why the fare available should not be wholesale, varied and decently served from clean and attractive outlets. Fast food establishments are readily to be found at railway stations and on high streets; why not at football grounds?"

Yes, on the face of it football grounds would seem to provide an excellent commercial opportunity for caterers. There, all in one place, you have an apparently captive market of thousands of potentially hungry and thirsty people. But it really isn't that simple. In fact there are many reasons why this utopian vision of mass catering at football grounds is virtually impossible to achieve, despite the best efforts of clubs and caterers.

First, it must be realised that the catering business in a football ground, (excluding the restaurants and boxes) only operates, at max-

imum for about seventy hours a year.

The restaurants can operate for much longer periods but the ground catering is only needed when a match is on.

The nature of the game and the ingrained habits of the great majority of supporters compared the difficulties. In general, people do not like to arrive excessively early for games. Traditionally, many men will meet in a pub for a pint or two before the game and take their place in the ground quite late.

We were making inroads into this behaviour pattern quite successfully until 1985 by offering bar service at the grounds but this has been largely stopped since sales of alcohol were banned following the Heysal incident. I consider this to be a mistake. No one who arrived ever got drunk at a football match.

(Continued in next magazine)



HELPING THE GAME



A fine new stand - one of the many initiatives supported by Trust funds

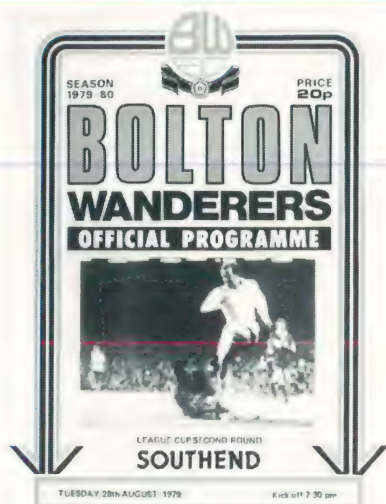
The Football Trust 1990 has been created to help the game at all levels and to assist clubs meet the requirements of Lord Justice Taylor's Final Report

Safety and comfort for all spectators is the primary objective and substantial funds have been made available for the provision of seating at Football League grounds. At the same time the Trust's commitment to family and community initiatives will continue with the provision of more family enclosures, better toilet facilities, covered accommodation, artificial pitches for local use and the development of women's and junior football particularly through community programmes, plus a wide range of policing and crowd control measures.

Each year The Trust expects to receive £20 million from the reduction in Pool Betting Duty plus the £10 million continuing contribution from the Spotting-the-Ball competition organised by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers. This money will be invested in projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

THE MEMORY GAME

recalled by Kevin O'Donnell



Football League Cup Second Round First Leg Bolton 1 Southend 2 28th August 1979

Following a 6-2 aggregate victory over fellow Third Division colleagues Brentford in the first round Blues were drawn against the First Division Bolton in the second round, also to be played over two legs, the first at Bumden Park.

Blues had made a great start to the 1979-80 season with victories in both their opening League fixtures



and in both the matches against Brentford including a 4-1 win at Griffin Park the week before this trip north. Bolton had also had a good start and were unbeaten in Division One after three games including a goalless draw at Anfield.

The game started on an ugly note as Len Cantello clattered into the unfortunate Colin Morris who was left sprawling on the ground. Referee Michael Peck felt that merely warranted a warning but he was not so lenient to Blues central defender Dave Cusack who he sent off in the 34th minute for a second bookable offence to leave 10 men Blues facing a mountainous task. However, at the interval the score was still 0-0 although both sides had had chances to break the deadlock.

Blues task was made even harder 6 minutes into the second period when Bolton swept into the lead as Alan Gowing headed in a perfect cross from Neil McNab.

That blow might well have signalled a Blues collapse but astonishingly they levelled the score within 3 minutes. Tony Hadley hit a long ball upfield beyond two home defenders for Colin Morris to run onto. The Bolton goalkeeper Jim McDonagh came out to narrow the angle but Morris coolly chipped the ball over him and into the far corner of the net.

Nine minutes later Blues dramatically snatched the lead as another Hadley long ball fell to Morris via the head of Micky Tuohy and he gratefully fired it into the net.

Bolton then threw everything they could against Blues and only a stunning save from Mervyn Causton prevented a last gasp equaliser for Blues 10 men to hold out for an amazing win against the odds - Blues first ever against a First Division club.

Blues went through to a third round tie at West Ham by drawing the second leg 0-0 at Roots Hall but lost 1-4 to the Hammers in a second replay. The Bolton match was the high point of what turned into a disappointing season as Blues early season form evaporated and they were eventually relegated to Division Four. Bolton's season did not improve and they were also relegated finishing last in Division One managing only 5 wins in 42 matches.

BOLTON:-

MCDONAGH, CLEMENT, NICHOLSON, GREAVES, JONES, WALSH, NOWAK (MORGAN), WHATMORE, GOWLING, CANTELLO, McNAB

BLUES:-

CAUSTON, DUDLEY, MOODY, CUSACK, YATES, STEAD, HADLEY, OTULAKOWSKI (POUNTNEY), TUOHY, PARKER, MORRIS

ATTENDANCE:- 7,861



BLUES

All photographs unless otherwise stated



It's a super Sammy save at Reading in the Daf.
He looks to have no chance as Trevor Senior
slides the ball towards the net....



.... A flying dive to his left covers the ball....

Photo's by John Hawken

N VIEW

re stated courtesy of Evening Echo.



.... And finally its grasped to the relief of the Blues and the despair of the Royals as Blues win 4 - 1.

Photo by John Hawken

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by **CHARLES D'KED**

"Christmas! Humbug" barked the stern Chief Constable Ebenezer.

"Who cares for Christmas and better still who cares for football. Not me for sure, I'll not be happy until they play all games at 2 a.m. without lights and behind closed doors."

"But please Sir" said the kindly Constable, "The humble people enjoy the games and it would help if they didn't have to travel so far at Christmas."

"Enough of your snivelling" said the vindictive Ebenezer. "They should have thought of that at Hillsborough. Instead we got the blame - now we'll make them pay. Let them travel from Lancashire to Essex on Boxing Day and from Essex to the Wirral on New Year's Day. Then make them pay lots more on those days for more policemen and lots less spectators."

And so it had to be and came to pass. The kindly constable went home to his Roots sadly, to break the news to his poor and vexed Victor who could only say "God Bless them Everyone!"

But in the night, the spirit of Taylor's Ghost visited the wretched Chief and took them on a journey.

"See the Ghost of Seasons Past" said Taylor, and the Chief saw stadiums full of people cheering and shouting with hardly a Policeman in sight. "I remember it well when I was a constable" sighed the Chief. "But soft, Here comes the Ghost of Seasons

Present." said Taylor and the scene changed to stadiums half empty, caged and ringed with Officers viewed badly by the crowd.

"That's me in charge," said the Chief, "but why do people dislike me, why don't they enjoy having so many Officers even though they cost them dear, and more than they can afford. Surely 79p a spectator's not a lot to ask."

"Now look again," said Taylor, "Here's the Ghost of Seasons to Come." "But here's new stadiums with brand new facilities," gasped the astonished Chief. But there's no Police, only Security Officers. Where are all our boys?"

"Gone," said Taylor, "Priced out of the market. I had to let the Clubs become responsible for their Security in the end

as they do in the United States."

"If only I had been reasonable," sobbed the Chief sadly. "Can I do anything before it's too late?"

"Act quickly - and with fairness to all," advised the kindly Taylor.

"I will, I will," beamed the Chief. And so it came to pass that the stern Chief became the friendly Chief and once again the Stadiums were filled with Fans and a few kindly Constables and people enjoyed their Football once again. Victor became unvexed and vibrant to boot and lead them all to a new land where Football had local Derbies on Bank Holidays again and everyone said.

"GOD BLESS US EVERYONE"
(With apologies to absolutely no-one at all)



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IN THE WINGS



Kevin Lock

Southend Utd 2 Cambridge 0

On Wednesday 21 November we were at home to Cambridge in the Capital League. We were looking to avenge our only defeat of the season at Cambridge earlier in the season. The first half was a pretty even affair with neither side really able to get on top. But after the break was a different story. We started to knock the ball about and get people forward and goals from Morris Scott and Jason Cook saw us run out 2-0 winners and give us sweet revenge.



Danny Greaves

BUSY BOY BLUES

Portsmouth 1 Southend 2

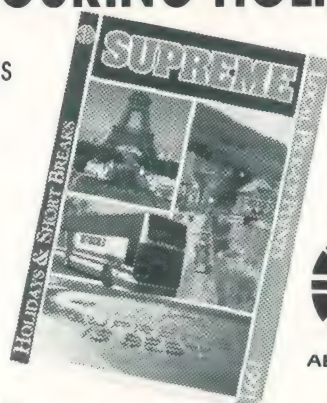
On Saturday November 10th we had our longest away trip in the League down to Portsmouth. Having left the ground at 6.30a.m. making sure that we arrived at Portsmouth for 10.00 a.m. for an 11 o'clock kick off which makes this always a difficult fixture. The game started evenly with Portsmouth and Southend playing good football. Southend got the break after 20 minutes when Steven Brown neatly volleyed a bad back pass home. Portsmouth then threw a lot of men forward and scored the equalizer. The young Blues dominated the second half, but it wasn't until 2 minutes remained when the referee awarded us a penalty for handball. Anthony Jones stepped up and nearly put the spot kick away which meant we ran out 2-1 winners.



Blues longest, loyal supporter Kathleen Branscombe of Westcliff, delighted to receive an unexpected gift of a life season ticket from Chairman Vic Jobson at the recent Blues Senior Citizens evening

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BLUES ON TOUR AND SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS



So this is the new year transport for Blues on Tour!

A Happy Boxing Day to one and all and here's hoping we're still celebrating at the end of the game.

Either way, we're all set for an early start to the New Year with a trip to Tranmere. The cost is £12 and we leave at 7.30a.m. Entry at Prenton Park is £4.00 & £3.50 for Jun/OAP with no seats available.

Our next trip after that is on the 12th January when we visit Crewe. The cost is £10 and entrance is £3.80 & £2.80 for Jun/OAP to stand and £5.50 & £3.80 to sit.

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**BARCLAYS
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BULLETIN

Crowds climb at record rate

Attendances in the Barclays League are rising at a faster rate than at any time since the immediate post-war period - a rate of increase not even matched after England won the World Cup in 1966.

Despite reduced capacities at grounds, gates in all four divisions of the Barclays League are up compared to the corresponding stage last year. If current trends are maintained throughout the season, attendances will increase by 7.4% to 20.9 million - the fifth consecutive year that crowds will have risen.

Spectators are returning to our national game in ever-increasing numbers following England's success in the World Cup Finals. In addition, the change in League Regulations

means there are more promotion places available this season than ever before, and for First Division clubs there is the added incentive of qualification for European competition.

The return next season to a 22-club First Division should see this upward trend maintained for an unprecedented sixth season.

The projected attendances for the current season based on current rates of increase are:

Division One	9,006,680 (+14.2%)
Division Two	6,930,978 (+0.7%)
Division Three	2,995,903 (+6.7%)
Division Four	1,973,577 (+4.4%)
Total	20,907,138 (+7.4%)

Player Profile



Versatile, vocal and very much on the goal standard this season.

DAVID MARTIN

This seasons surprise package has undoubtedly been David Martin. His defensive qualities have never been questioned since his arrival at Roots Hall in the pre-season period of 1986, but this season David has proved himself a more than useful poacher in the goalscoring department. The sight is now familiar, an inswinging free-kick from Peter Butler or Steve Tilson, the rising figure of Dave Martin, the gently flick on and the celebrations begin. Dave has also shown that he is capable of slotting home those

important penalty kicks and add to that his tremendous 25 yard strike at Reading in our 4-2 League victory at Elm Park in November and you have the complete player.

Goals against Aldershot, Crewe, Preston, Swansea (2), Bournemouth (all be it off his shoulder), Reading (2) add to the goals of Ian Benjamin and Tilson have proved more than adequate back up for Brett Angell as the Blues begin to pull away from the rest of the chasing pack.



Martin began his career by gaining England Youth International honours while serving an apprenticeship with London club Millwall. Martin graduated through the ranks and became one of a handful of Youth Internationals to make his name in professional football. He spent five years at Cold Blow Lane, where he teamed up with ex-Roots Hall men Paul Roberts, Dean Neal, Anton Otulakowski and present Blues favourite Paul Sansome before he left for the mecca of the long ball game at Plough Lane, Wimbledon in 1985.

The blonde bombshell made his debut for the Wombles when he came on as substitute against Charlton Athletic in the 3-1 home defeat for the Dons. That defeat prompted manager Dave Bassett to make changes to his side and Martin made his full debut the following match against Blackburn Rovers, but the changes did not work as Wimbledon went down 2-0. Martin kept his place in the team and scored in the 3-0 victory against Carlisle United. He ended the season with 20 games and a further goal against Cardiff City as the Dons secured a respectable middle table position. The following season he was involved in Wimbledon's successful push for promotion making 15 appearances and scoring 1 goal from the penalty spot.

But he was to play no part in Wimbledon's successful perennial season in the top flight as David Webb secured his services to assist in another rewarding promotion challenge, as Southend rose from the depths of the Fourth Division to gain higher status in 1986-87.

He made his debut for Southend in the 2-0 defeat against Peterborough United and interchanged between defence and midfield in the initial games of that season. He made 28 appearances scoring 3 goals including his memorable run through the Torquay defence which began at the half-way line and ended with a 20 yard thunderbolt low into the corner of the net.

The 6ft 1in midfield maestro went on to play under Paul Clark as Blues struggled to

find their feet in Division 3 and in the 1-0 victory against Derby County, Clark experimented with Dave as a centre forward, to prove his versatility, but despite the victory the experiment was not a success and Dave returned to the more familiar surroundings of midfield before the second leg. The 1988-89 season brought with it further gloom and as David Webb returned to the helm it was already a difficult task to rescue Southend from another miserable season of relegation. However, little did Blues fans realise, fortunes were taking a turn for the better and Martin played a full role in Southend's second consecutive promotion winning season in Division 4, making 38 appearances and again scoring three goals.

This season, like everyone else, David has put in maximum effort to lift Southend from what appeared before the season started to be no more than a mediocre campaign into the most successful in our history.

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East Stand Green	£140.00	£91.50	£6.10
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Buxton On The Ball

A very big welcome to your Southend United's Boxing Day fixture against Bolton Wanderers. Whilst delighted of course to see Bolton Wanderers with us today I do feel that somebody at the Football League who arranges these games deserves a kick where he can't show his mum.

I say that because Christmas is a time for the family and in football it has traditionally been a time for local derbies. Indeed last year at this time in the Fourth Division we were at home to Colchester United - perfect.

This year it should have been Leyton Orient or if not them then one of the London Third Division sides.

But no the Football League in their wisdom bring us Bolton Wanderers, all of the best of 300 miles for this holiday fixture. Virtually no chance for Bolton followers to get on their bikes and cheer on their men. And also I don't think its fair on the players. Alright they are reasonably well paid and its their job ... but they too have families and children and I say again Christmas is the time for the family.

With the possibility of bad weather the long drive from Bolton could be problem enough. I don't know when the Lancashire side left home or whether they stayed overnight on Christmas Day in some London Hotel but whenever they left home you can be pretty sure they saw little of Christmas Day.



So as far as I'm concerned three dried up Satsumas and a piece of stale Christmas cake to the football League.

And so to the match itself ... having blasted the Football League ... it is of course the season of goodwill to all men.

Bolton Wanderers are an excellent club and have already pulled off some super away wins this season at Leyton Orient and if memory serves me right at Grimsby Town ... so they are no mugs.

I trust you had a great time yesterday ... and now is the time to open your lungs ... get the fresh air thrashing in and out of the body as we all cheer on Southend United.

Up the Blues

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THREE - VIEW PREVIEW



With the turkey still settling, pudding untouched and beer ran out, the footballing fraternity look forward to three matches in the space of seven days. Boxing Day, next Saturday and New Years Day all see full football League programmes and what a turning point in the season it could be. Many-a-pundit says that certain teams collapse after Christmas and those that are really going for the titles begin to come to the fore.

Well after an excellent first four months of the season will Southend United's promotion ambitions fade with the High Streets lights or will they still head the field when we're all still eating those turkey sandwiches in May? The answer to this question could well be a little closer after the coming trio of games, today against Bolton Wanderers, on Saturday against Bradford and next week up at Tranmere Rovers. The match this morning is certainly a tough test. Bolton, despite a shaky opening period, over the last couple of months have been surging up the table. Wanderers superb form in November, in fact, earned manager Phil Neal the Barclays Manager of the month award for the Third Division. By now, no doubt, the jeroaboam of champagne has worn off and the team will be raring to go against Blues. To show their class todays visitors stunned fellow high flyers Grimsby Town four weeks ago when a Scott Green goal gave Wanderers a 1-0 win.

Elsewhere, traditional Bank Holiday local derbies are few and far between. In fact the shortest distance that away supporters have to travel is the match that pits Chester City against Rotherham. With both sides struggling to pick up points this promises to be a match where corners will be a premium, let alone goals.

Exeter City fans and players face a round trip as they journey to Springfield Park, Wigan. The South West side's form throughout the season has been erratic and with Athletic's recent results taking a nose dive this game could go either way.

Meanwhile Grimsby Town travel south to troubled Reading where internal wrangles still persist. Trevor Senior and Steve Moran continue to be the Royals lifeline with these two getting the few goals that the team have managed to convert. When Blues were at Elm Park, in the League and Leyland DAF Cup, I was particularly impressed by Michael Gilkes who, as the lightning full back, seemed to cause all sorts of problems and he should prove a handful for the Town defence. But I would still suggest the Mariners should edge this one.

Stoke City, who are still trying to close the gap on Southend



Super first goal versus Grimsby



Heads we win against the 'Mariners'

and Grimsby, have a home match against Swansea City. Another large crowd of over 10,000 will no doubt be at the Victoria Ground to watch their side take on a Vetchfield side who, at the moment, are struggling to master the basic art of scoring - the number of victories by more than one goal can be counted on one hand. Cambridge United and Tranmere Rovers meet at the Abbey Stadium and both look good bets for possible promotion. Indeed Rovers were in Division Two for a couple of weeks during the close season whilst the Swindon debacle was going on. The League in its wisdom decided to put the Wiltshire club into the Second Division in the end, leaving Tranmere disappointed. But this season they've been a fairly solid outfit and are proving extremely good travellers. Recent signing Steve Cooper, a striker from Barmsey, will be hoping to continue that fine away form.

Two other teams challenging on the fringe of the race for a place in Two are Bury and Leyton Orient and they meet at Gigg Lane. Bury, joining Reading a few weeks ago by putting the complete squad up for sale, were rocked by the departure of manager Sam Ellis to take up the role of chief coach at Main Road. Having played both Southend and Colchester in the FA Cup, Leyton have proved their a difficult side to beat. Frank Clark's side have had a stirring run at Brisbane Road but on the road the form is not so good and I reckon Bury will just edge this one. Birmingham v Brentford was a fixture in the second round of the FA Cup this year with the London club coming out on top and the match is repeated today but will the scoreline be the same? I think not, Birmingham will be out for revenge and they'll also be endeavouring to get back on to the promotion train which they seem to have left in the past few weeks. Bradford, who are Blues visitors here at Roots Hall on Saturday, travel down to Craven Cottage to take on Fulham. Luther Blissett has revived Boumemouth's fortunes this year and the South coast club should have no trouble overcoming a Stags side that has been staring at Fourth Division football for most of the season.

Not forgetting Crewe v Preston (who could) and Shrewsbury v Huddersfield that's the run down of the Boxing Day fixtures.

And returning to the first few lines of this column, just a thought, maybe its about time to think about the players and fans over the Christmas period and start 'rigging' the computer compiled fixtures so we don't have to travel hundreds of miles over the holiday period.

But for now its back to the turkey, wine and beer and enjoy the rest of Boxing Day.

Nick Alliker



BARCLAYS LEAGUE FIXTURES SEASON 1990-91



1990 OPPONENTS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Aug 25 Huddersfield Town	Aug 28 Rushmore Cup 1 (1)	Sep 1 Crewe Alexandra	Sep 4 Rushmore Cup 1 (1)	Sep 7 Cambridge United	Sep 10 Cambridge United	Sep 13 Stoke City	Sep 16 Stoke City	Sep 19 Stoke City	Sep 22 Stoke City	Sep 25 Stoke City	Sep 28 Stoke City	Oct 1 Stoke City	Oct 4 Stoke City
Oct 7 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 10 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 13 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 16 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 19 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 22 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 25 AFC Bournemouth	Oct 28 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 1 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 4 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 7 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 10 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 13 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 16 AFC Bournemouth
Nov 19 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 22 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 25 AFC Bournemouth	Nov 28 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 1 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 4 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 7 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 10 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 13 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 16 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 19 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 22 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 25 AFC Bournemouth	Dec 28 AFC Bournemouth
Jan 1 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 4 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 7 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 10 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 13 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 16 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 19 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 22 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 25 AFC Bournemouth	Jan 28 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 1 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 4 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 7 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 10 AFC Bournemouth
Feb 13 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 16 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 19 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 22 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 25 AFC Bournemouth	Feb 28 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 1 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 4 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 7 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 10 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 13 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 16 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 19 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 22 AFC Bournemouth
Mar 25 AFC Bournemouth	Mar 28 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 1 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 4 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 7 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 10 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 13 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 16 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 19 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 22 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 25 AFC Bournemouth	Apr 28 AFC Bournemouth	May 1 AFC Bournemouth	May 4 AFC Bournemouth
May 7 AFC Bournemouth	May 10 AFC Bournemouth	May 13 AFC Bournemouth	May 16 AFC Bournemouth	May 19 AFC Bournemouth	May 22 AFC Bournemouth	May 25 AFC Bournemouth	May 28 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 1 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 4 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 7 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 10 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 13 AFC Bournemouth	Jun 16 AFC Bournemouth



Hats and Aprons replace Shirts & Boots for Andy Anshar and Dean Austin at the Senior Citizens evening in the Shrimpers Club



WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE SEASON 1990-91

For details of home venues contact
Main Office on 0702 - 340707

Alterations notified on Soccerline 0839-66-44-44

1990 OPPONENTS

Wed Sept 12	Leyton Orient	.....	H	3	1
Wed Sept 26	Wokingham Town	.....	H	3	1
Wed Oct 3	Colchester Utd	.....	A	0	0
Wed Oct 10	Brentford	.....	H	3	0
Wed Oct 17	Cambridge Utd	.....	A	1	2
Wed Oct 24	Leyton Orient	.....	A	3	1
Wed Oct 31	Wycombe Wanderers	.....	A	3	0
Wed Nov 14	Slough Town	.....	A	3	1
Wed Nov 21	Cambridge Utd	.....	H	2	0
Wed Nov 28	Enfield	.....	A	2	1
Mon Dec 3	Barnet	.....	H	1	1
Mon Dec 10	Wealdstone	.....	A	2	1

1991

Wed Jan 2	Barnet	.....	A		
Wed Jan 9	Harlow (Essex Sen. Cup)	.....	H		
Mon Jan 14	(Replay date for Harlow)	.....	H		
Wed Jan 23	Wealdstone	.....	H		
Wed Jan 26	Colchester	.....	H		
Wed Feb 6	Sutton Utd	.....	H		
Wed Feb 27	Brentford	.....	H		
Wed Mar 13	Wokingham Town	.....	A		
Wed Mar 20	Sutton Utd	.....	H		
Wed Mar 27	Aldershot	.....	H		
Wed Apr 3	Slough Town	.....	H		
Tue Apr 16	Aldershot	A		
Wed Apr 24	Brentford	A		
Wed May 1	Wycombe Wanderers	H		

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SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SEASON 1990-91

For details of home venues contact
Main Office on 0702 - 340707

Alterations notified on Soccerline 0839-66-44-44

1990 OPPONENTS

Sat Aug 25	Chelsea	.....	H	0	0
Sat Sept 1	Watford	.....	H	1	8
Sat Sept 8	Tottenham	.....	H	1	3
Sat Sept 15	Millwall League Cup 1	.....	H	2	1
Sat Sept 22	Arsenal	.....	A	0	9
Sat Sept 29	Crystal Palace (Cup)	.....	A	0	0
Sat Oct 6	Leeds United	.....	A	0	0
Sat Oct 13	Leeds United	.....	A	0	0
Sat Oct 20	Charlton Athletic	.....	A	0	4
Sat Oct 27	Colchester League Cup 2	.....	A	1	1
Sat Nov 3	Colchester League Cup Replay(a.e.t.)	.....	H	5	3
Sat Nov 10	Norwich City	.....	H	3	2
Sat Nov 17	Portsmouth	.....	A	2	1
Sat Nov 24	Q.P.R.	.....	A	1	3
Sat Nov 27	West Ham United	.....	A	1	3
Sat Dec 4	Tottenham	.....	H	1	3
Sat Dec 11	Sheff Wed (Youth Cup)	.....	H	0	4
Sat Dec 18	Sheff Wed (Youth Cup)	.....	H	0	4
Sat Dec 25	Spoke (EA Youth Cup)	.....	A	3	2
Sat Dec 31	Gillingham	.....	H		
Sat Dec 31	League Cup 3	.....	A		
Sat Dec 31	Fulham	.....	A		

Sat Jan 5	Chelsea	.....	A	5	
Sat Jan 12	Watford	.....	A		
Sat Jan 19	Tottenham	.....	A		
Sat Jan 26	Arsenal	.....	A		
Sat Feb 2	Leyton Orient	.....	H		
Sat Feb 9	Spoke Athletic	.....	H		
Sat Feb 16	Spoke Athletic	.....	H		
Sat Feb 23	Millwall	.....	H		
Sat Mar 2	Leeds United	.....	A		
Sat Mar 9	Portsmouth	.....	A		
Sat Mar 16	Q.P.R.	.....	H		
Sat Mar 23	West Ham United	.....	A		
Sat Mar 30	Cambridge	.....	A		
Sat Apr 6	Gillingham	.....	A		
Sat Apr 13	Fulham	.....	H		

* BLUES WON ON PENALTY SHOOT OUT.

BARCLAYS THIRD DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE AS AT 16.12.90

TEAM	HOME				AWAY				PTS
	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	
SOUTHEND	18	8	0	21	10	6	1	2	15
CRIMSBY	18	6	2	1	18	5	2	2	11
LEYTON ORIENT	18	8	0	1	16	5	2	1	19
BURY	18	6	2	1	18	10	2	4	3
BOLTON	18	4	2	3	11	9	5	1	11
BOURNEMOUTH	18	6	3	1	18	8	1	4	4
STOKE	17	4	1	3	13	8	4	4	5
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	17	4	1	3	18	8	4	4	5
BRENTFORD	17	4	2	4	17	7	4	4	1
BRISTOL CITY	17	4	2	3	9	3	4	1	13
BRISTOL Rovers	17	4	2	3	9	3	4	1	13
TRANMERE	18	3	5	10	11	4	3	2	11
READING	18	3	5	10	11	4	3	2	11
WIGAN	18	3	3	16	17	4	3	2	13
HULLERSFIELD	18	3	3	16	17	4	3	2	13
SWANSEA	18	5	1	13	14	2	3	3	11
PRESTON	18	3	4	2	9	12	2	2	11
EXETER	18	3	4	2	9	12	2	2	11
CHESTER	18	2	5	9	12	3	2	6	9
CREWE	18	2	4	9	12	3	2	6	9
MANCHESTER	18	2	4	9	12	3	2	6	9
FULHAM	18	2	4	9	12	3	2	6	9
SHREWSBURY	18	2	4	10	12	1	2	6	7
ROTHAM	18	2	3	4	12	14	0	1	8

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUES AT 5.12.90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1. Southend United	11	8	2	1	24	8	26
2. Brentford	11	8	1	2	37	17	19
3. Cambridge United	10	6	1	3	22	19	19
4. Colchester United	10	4	4	2	19	18	16
5. Slough Town	11	5	1	5	17	21	16
6. Barnet	12	3	6	3	20	25	15
7. Leyton Orient	9	4	-	5	17	17	12
8. Aldershot	8	3	2	3	11	14	11
9. Sutton United	10	2	3	5	13	25	9
10. Wealdstone	8	2	2	4	14	17	8
11. Wycombe Wanderers	11	1	5	5	11	16	8
12. Wokingham Town	8	1	1	6	7	16	4

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GARDEN
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TEAM CHECK

SOUTHEND UNITED

Manager: David Webb

Paul Sansome	1
Dean Austin	2
Chris Powell	3
David Martin	4
Spencer Prior	5
Steve Tilson	6
Paul Clark	7
Peter Butler	8
Adam Locke	9
Ian Benjamin	10
Brett Angell	11
Paul Smith	12
Christian Hyslop	14

BOLTON WANDERERS

Manager: Phil Neal

Dave Felgate
Phil Brown
Barry Cowdrill
Scott Green
Mark Seagraves
Mark Winstanley
Stuart Storer
Steve Thompson
David Reeves
Tony Philliskirk
Julian Darby
To Be Announced
To Be Announced

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Mr. S. Pearce
(Red Flag)

Mr. J. Thompson
(Yellow Flag)

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